



Dear MiraCosta Faculty Colleagues,

I am excited to welcome you to the Spring 2022 term. As your new Vice President of Instructional Services, I have enjoyed the opportunity to connect with many of you via Zoom and in-person, and I look forward to getting to know you all as we start a new semester and a new calendar year. While the pandemic continues to create new opportunities to test our flexibility, we lean into each other more and more, even if virtually, for support and hope. Our college, county, state and nation continue to grapple with the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of us have experienced the impact of the virus on a very personal level. However, vaccinations, new booster developments and new drug therapies continue to provide a reason for optimism. MiraCosta continues with its safe, steady and sustainable return to campus planning. As a newcomer to MiraCosta, I have spent time watching and learning, and I am so impressed by how you all pivoted, evolved, and improvised when needed to help support student learning and success. I am deeply impressed particularly by the levels of support and compassion that I have seen you extend among your fellow faculty and among the MiraCosta Community as a whole. We will remember these lessons together as we continue to wade into the oncoming waves of change. Challenges remain; but we remain resilient and resourceful in the face of these challenges.

You will notice that this letter and packet is a little different from previous semesters. Thanks to the excellent work of Joanne Gonzales and our Instructional Services deans team and staff, we have separated out the logistical information from this welcome back letter and have created and attached two *Fact Sheets: Full-Time Faculty Fact Sheet* and *Associate Faculty Fact Sheet*. Please review and in keep them handy as they have information you may need to access at different points in the semester. Regarding the return-to-campus and the College's on-campus footprint, more information about this will be sent separately in an FAQ being developed between Instructional and Student Services. This will contain the most recent information we have as we welcome you back to campus. If you have any questions regarding your department or school, don't hesitate to reach out to [your department chair, your dean or your faculty assistant](#).

I am looking forward to meeting more of you and "seeing" you all during our FLEX week. I am grateful to Denise Stephenson, Debby Adler, and the PDP Committee for all their hard work in developing a wonderful menu of options for our continued professional growth and learning. The work of equity, inclusion and healing remain at our core, and we continue to strive for learning, growth, and improvement in these areas. All College Day, which schedule for the morning of Friday, January 21st will focus on deeper thinking and reflection on equity work as we host Estela Bensimon, co-author of *From Equity Talk to Equity Walk*.

Welcome to the possibilities that Spring 2022 has in store for all of us, and may we all strive to hope, laugh, and pursue, in the words of Amanda Gorman, “just redemption.” Please know that as your new VP, I am here for you, both on-campus and via Zoom, and look forward to what we grow and co-create together.

Best wishes,
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Denée Pescarmona

Vice President, Instructional Services
My pronouns are she/her/hers



Oceanside Campus

1 Barnard Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056
P 760.795.6805
dpescarmona@miracosta.edu
www.miracosta.edu
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